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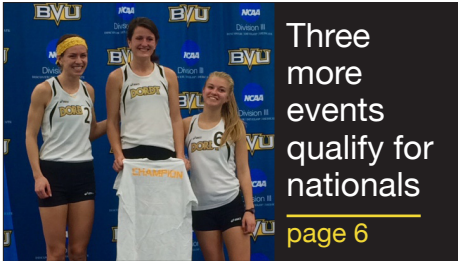
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February 10, 2016
Issue 8



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THE DIAMOND

TX: another year of competitive talents

Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writer

It was a not-so-typical Saturday night on campus, Feb. 6, as more than half of the student population of Dordt gathered in the B. J. Haan auditorium to attend this year’s Talent Extravaganza [TX].

“I’d say there were close to a thousand people there,” said freshman Tech Services member Elayne Apol.

The Signers team of freshman Stephanie Rehbein and Jalyn Vander Wal won third for their sign-language performance of NF and Jeremiah Carlson’s “I’ll Keep On.” Hot5, the five-member dance group of freshman Hakyung Kim, sophomores Sion Yang and Sun Yong Lee, junior Grace Lee and senior Juan Pablo Benitez Gonzales, placed second. The Juggling Club composed of junior Eric Rowe and sophomores Erica Liddle and Ryan Pasveer took the coveted first place prize with their blue glow-in-the-dark juggling routine.

Emcees Ariel and Michel Gomes kicked off the night dressed in traditional African garb and proceeded to keeping the audience entertained

for the hour and a half with video skits poking fun at Dordt life and a more than a few Africa jokes.

Nine of the fifteen auditioning acts were showcased onstage with performances by: The Signers. Harmonyz. Hot5. The Juggling Club. @martaann47. Jenna Flutestra. Dateless. KBallad. Two Pianos. Nineteen Fingers.

“I thought all the acts were really good,” said sophomore, emcee Ariel Gomes. “There was a variety of different types of acts as well, which made the show altogether more engaging.”

They varied from a group of men singing about being unwillingly single, to flute and ukulele solos, sign language, and a vocal solo in Korean.

Freshman emcee Michel Gomes had a different take away from the night.

“I most enjoyed the games. In the first game, people were pumped, but by the time we had the second game – well, they weren’t as brave,” Gomes said. “Watching them suffer was delightful--I felt empowered, kind of like a war chief from back home.”

Students always enjoy being a part of an event



Photo by Lisa Smith

Dateless perform their song of lament in the face of another day with no significant other.

that showcases their individual talents and a good way to step out of their comfort zone.

“I thought it would be a fun experience,” said sophomore, Hot5 member Sun Yong Lee. “The acts were great and the emcees did a great job, and it seemed pretty professional.”

Fan-favorite moments included a few well-placed subtitle jokes about Michel’s heavy, crafted African accent and the impromptu

stories told by the Gomes brothers.

Any show like this takes hours of work and preparation for everyone involved.

“I was running on two hours of sleep [for the Extravaganza],” said Ariel Gomes. “Which altogether made it easier to not be nervous, but also removed the filter I have between my brain and my mouth--we did all the planning this week, but it came together nicely in the end.”

Snowfall marks first late start in Dordt history

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

Whether you saw the blizzard as two extra hours of sleep, two extra hours of Black Ops or two extra hours of homework, the delayed start of classes until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, impacted all of campus.

“This was the first late start ever as far as anyone can remember,” said chief administrative officer Howard Wilson, who consulted Wayne Kobes and Charles Veenstra, the two longest tenured professors.

Dordt has only cancelled classes twice in the last 60 years, and, until last Wednesday, the college had never utilized a late start.

“We’ve cancelled about once every 20 years,” Wilson said.

The snow that began to fall early on Tuesday morning qualified for blizzard conditions due to the high winds and low visibility. The snow continued throughout the day and left around 13 inches according to the National Weather Services as reported by the Sioux City Journal.

“It’s like the end of the world, except with snow,” said junior Matt Augustine. “Some of the doors don’t open, they are so icy.”

Junior Kyle Fosse observed one student having trouble closing a door into the old science building due to iced up hinges and snow accumulation. Even a few shoves with his shoulder could not close the last few inches.

Fosse noted similar difficulty with opening the west door into Southview and had to push through piled up snow before he could get out of the building.

After a full day of classes, junior Nick Payton thought that the next day’s classes should definitely be cancelled.

“When the snow is up to my knees, it’s not good,” Payton said.

On Tuesday afternoon, an optional early



Photo by Jonathan Fictorie

Students stagger through high winds and low visibility on their way to and from class.

closing was instituted for students and staff who felt they needed to return home before it got dark. On Tuesday evening at 10, Wilson and provost Eric Forseth met and called in President Hoekstra, who was in Washington D.C. at the time, to make the decision to start late the following morning.

Freshman Janelle Cammenga heard about the delay while talking to friends at 55th Avenue.

“Score!” Cammenga said. “I haven’t done my eight o’clock homework yet.”

Though the delay until 10 on Wednesday morning brought much joy to those struggling with deadlines, Wilson said that the faculty would be working with students to make up for the lost time.

Such a significant snow storm is rare enough

that Dordt does not have a hard and fast policy on when to cancel school. The Dordt administrators consulted weather forecasters and the city, county and state officials to make their decision. The largest factor that goes into delaying classes is the residential factor. About 90 percent of students live on campus and most professors live in Sioux Center.

Though there was no further snowfall on Wednesday, Wilson listed two challenges that impacted the late start decision. When the city cleans the streets, it leaves a berm of snow that blocks driveways. Also, empty sidewalks and parking lots are much easier for Dordt’s snow team to navigate.

Flint water crisis: water that can kill

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

It is not uncommon to hear Dordt students complain about the water on campus. It tastes weird, smells weird and leaves residue whenever someone tries to wash the dishes.

Sioux Center water is extremely hard, meaning it is packed with calcium and other solutes that make it “hard” to make lather with soap. In fact, one of the engineering students’ first labs involves testing the hardness of campus water.

Flint, Michigan is facing an entirely different kind of water problem. Instead of brimming with calcium, their water is filled with lead. This health hazard can cause health and development problems in children.

Recently, President Barack Obama spoke out on the water crisis in Flint. According to the reports of USA Today, he said, “I am very proud of what I’ve done as the president, but the only job that’s more important to me is the job of father. And I know that if I was a parent up there, I would be beside myself if my kids’ health could be at risk.”

Obama declared a state of emergency on January 16 for Flint so the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) could provide support.

These are only the most recent in a long series of events involving Flint’s water supply. Residents have been struggling with the quality of their water for over a year. Back in April of 2014, Governor Rick Snyder decided to switch Flint’s water supply from Detroit to the Flint River from the as a cost-saving measure. Soon after the switch, citizens began complaining about the smell, taste and color of the water. Flint authorities assured the people that the water was safe to drink. They stood by this

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◆ News ◆

Veenstra retires after 40 years of communication

Tori Mann – Staff Writer

After forty years of teaching at Dordt College, communication professor Charles Veenstra has decided it is time for him to retire after this semester.

When Veenstra first entered Dordt College as a student, he believed that communication was his weakest area. He took communication classes and helped coach Debate Club with a professor. That professor told him to go get his Master’s degree and “come back to help him.”

He followed that advice: he graduated with a history degree, married a woman he met at Dordt, received his Masters and PhD in Communication, taught high school history and speech in Chicago and of course, came back to teach communication at Dordt.

Marlene Veenstra, Professor Veenstra’s wife, said that he never minded going to work.

“My husband truly loved his work at Dordt,” she said. “He will miss it.”

Professor Veenstra struggled to nail down a reason why he chose this year to retire, saying that it was a difficult decision for him.

“This is my fortieth year of teaching here and maybe that is enough,” he said. “I have several other things I would like to do with the time God may still give me.”

During an average week, Veenstra arrives at Dordt around seven every morning and leaves for home at four every afternoon. He does school-related work in the mornings and evenings, but from four to seven, he “has to do something different.”

Often that something different is woodworking—his specialty is crafting pens, which he sometimes gives to graduates.

Veenstra enjoys working with his fellow colleagues, but it is the students which make up most of his memories at Dordt.

“I especially liked encouraging students who thought they could not do what I wanted for them,” Veenstra said.

“Graduation day is always very difficult for him,” says Mrs. Veenstra. “It is like a parent who wants to keep their children home, but

yet we know they need to spread their wings and be on their own. The same is with his students.”

Veenstra often lets students come into his office to ask questions or just have someone to talk to. Kim Brinkerhoff, a former student of Veenstra who now works in Student Services at Dordt, remembers when she would go to “talk through hard things” with Professor Veenstra. He encouraged her at these times and challenged her in the classroom to be introspective and know herself better.

“His life experience carries a lot of weight, so when he talks, I listen,” Brinkerhoff said. “When he listens, he reads not only what I am saying, but it almost seems like he can see everything I’m not saying as well.”

Kae Van Engen, a communication professor at Dordt, started at Dordt at the same time as Veenstra: Veenstra as a professor, Van Engen as a student.

“I was that student, just like many students today,” she says, “who sat in his office and talked while he listened.”

Veenstra was Van Engen’s mentor when she began working at Dordt, teaching her about work, commitment and the Lord.

“Dr. Veenstra and I will continue to be lifelong friends,” Van Engen said.

What will Veenstra do when he retires? He plans to keep researching, writing, woodworking and working with the International Listening Association.

“We have four children, eight grandchildren and all of them live away from here...we hope to see them more often,” Mrs. Veenstra said.

Veenstra, however, has mixed feelings about retirement

“I am quite sure I will miss the students more than anything else...it is great fun to see them grow,” he said.



Engineers take a break from classes, visit Minneapolis

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

“Engineering life moves pretty quick. If you don’t stop to take a look once in a while, you might miss it.” This phrase is printed on a club whiteboard in the engineering wing of the science building to advertise the engineering big tour. On Feb. 11 and 12, students will take a break from classes, travel to Minneapolis and visit engineering companies.

The big tour is hosted by the various engineering clubs on campus. There are three itineraries based off of the largest emphases that Dordt offers: mechanical engineering, civil engineering and electrical engineering. Companies will include UTC Aerospace, Starkey, ASE Holdings and 3M. The engineering department contributes to lower the tour cost to \$30 per student.

Sophomore Micah Tjeerdsma toured in the Kansas City area last year and visited six different engineering companies over two days.

“It further expands your horizons of what you see yourself doing,” Tjeerdsma said.

One of the most memorable parts of the experience for Tjeerdsma was the evening activities after the companies closed for the day. A group of engineering majors went out to get food and see some Kansas City sights.

“I didn’t think that we’d end up in the Lego store at the mall,” Tjeerdsma said.

Junior Mark Brauning, who took part in the tour to the Iowa City area in 2014, was part of a group that went out to eat at Buffalo Wild Wings after touring all day. Eating spicy wings with upperclassmen is immediately memorable to Brauning, though he also enjoyed seeing the automated trucking system at John Deere.

“It gave me the opportunity to act outside of a class-oriented environment,” Brauning said. “It’s a nice vacation in the middle of the semester.”

The tours are geared to engineering students, not tourists, and often are established through a personal connection to the college. Because the clubs tour companies, they need to come in

a typical weekday when manufacturers, testers and designers are in normal working hours.

Traditionally, the engineering big tour takes place over the Thursday to Friday block before Valentine’s Day. This usually corresponds with an officially sanctioned reading day. The tour-goers in the past have only needed to skip their Thursday classes.

Juniors Austin Ver Meer and Adam Howerzyl said that missing two days of classes was a major factor in deciding against attending the big tour this year.

Sophomore Laura Baridon will be attending the big tour for the first time this week. Her scheduling worked out nicely this year and she will only have to miss two classes and band, despite the lack of a reading day. She is looking forward to seeing the different opportunities to observe engineering work.

“3M will be cool to visit,” Baridon said. “They have Post-it and a lot of different brands.”

Baridon is glad that she will not be the only woman attending the big tour this year. Last year all of the Dordt students who attended were male.

As well as touring companies and bonding with fellow students, the big tour-goers will have the opportunity to interact with Dordt engineering alumni in the Minneapolis area. Brauning is looking forward to talking with people who have been in his shoes as a student at Dordt.

“Seeing someone who has gone before you and gotten the same degree, it’s encouraging, really,” Brauning said. “You can put yourself out there. You can shoot for your goals.”

The big tour roster is set at 28 students and one faculty advisor, Professor Nolan Van Gaalen, who has been involved with the tour since they started the tradition. The engineering big tour continues to be a popular and successful, giving engineering students a break while showing them the practical application of their skills.

Flint water crisis: water that can kill (cont.)

Continued from page 1

statement even when rashes started to appear and General Motors stopped using the water because it corroded car parts. After high lead levels – over 100 parts per billion – were found in the water of three city homes, the government began blood testing.

In September, a group of doctors found high lead levels in city children and encouraged the government to change the water supply back to Detroit, but state regulators still insisted that the water was safe.

Flint reconnected to Detroit’s water in October, but the effects of the earlier switch

were irreversible. Governor Snyder declared a state of emergency in December. Obama followed suit in January so that the city could receive federal aid. Problems are still being sorted out in Flint. FEMA provided \$5 million in aid, and at Snyder’s request, the Michigan house contributed \$28 million.

Time will show what effect this aid will have on the city of Flint, Michigan, and whether there will be any lasting health consequences from the water crisis.

Dordt students can rest assured that, while the water on campus may be extremely hard, it is not dangerous.

Snowfall marks first late start in Dordt history (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The snow team started clearing at 5 a.m. on Wednesday and did not finish clearing the pavement that day.

Sioux Center’s growth over the past half century has made it easier to cancel classes for safety reasons.

“It’s three times as large as it was 50 years ago. People can live two miles away from campus and still be in Sioux Center,” Wilson said. “I don’t think we are getting softer; circumstances change.”

It takes a lot to make Dordt close its doors – especially when they are coated in ice.



Nifty Needles: new knitting club shares passion for crafting

Alayna Gerhardt – Staff Writer

Dordt College added a new club to its long list, The Nifty Needles. No, it has nothing to do with nursing. The group is a crafting club dedicated to getting away from the stress of homework and just spend time with fellow members and learning a new skill or improving on an existing one.

The Nifty Needles meet every Saturday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. where around a dozen people meet to knit or crochet, while others simply come to enjoy the company.

“[Our mission is] to share our passion of crafting with the wider Dordt community,” said junior Jaden Vander Berg a co-founder along with sophomores Emily Hummel and Laura Humrichouse.

Some children were taught how to knit or crochet from mothers or grandmothers, but others didn’t have that experience.

“I’ve been knitting since I was little,” Hummel said. “I am really thankful that we could start a club on campus that encourages everyone to explore new ways of crafting and try out something that they might not otherwise do.”

However, the club is hoping to do more than just teach and create for themselves.

“We live in an ever fluctuating part of the country and people don’t always have the means to supply themselves or their families with the proper winter wear,” Vander Berg said. “If we can help them ease that burden and supply schools, churches or other organizations



The Nifty Needles meet in the Kuyper Loft on Saturday mornings.

with the necessary warm weather accessories then I believe that we are called to help them in that way.”

Chatting over coffee, tea and muffins, the group’s hands are always moving. Some work on blankets or scarfs, while others show off finished projects.

“I love the chill Saturday morning atmosphere,” said Vanessa Blankespoor, a junior. “We all work on our own thing and the conversation is always entertaining.”

The Nifty Needles discussed how they hoped to make hats for premature babies at local

hospitals and warm winter scarfs and hats for families in need.

“We want to help use our gifts that God has given us to help those less fortunate,” said senior, Annie Pinkerton.

If you’re looking to tackle a new skill or find a listening ear, be sure to drop in on the crafting club on Saturday mornings. You will be met with a warm and friendly smile willing to help.

“Sometimes the solution to life’s largest problems is to crochet with friends and have a cup of joe in the morning,” Humrichouse said.

The Dordt opinion: Valentine’s Day on trial

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

At a college with a reputation for producing a large number of married couples, you’d think that Valentine’s Day would be more celebrated. However, that doesn’t seem to be the case.

Among the population of single students at Dordt, Valentine’s Day tends to be called “overrated.” These students may exchange the typical heart-strewn cards and partake in sugar binges, but the day doesn’t hold as much significance as for those who have snagged that significant other. Senior Chris Geels is among those who celebrate Valentine’s Day on a more superficial level.

“My opinion is that if you really love someone, you shouldn’t be focused on showing that love for one day of the year. I think that Valentine’s Day is a severely commercialized holiday,” Geels said.

While there are many who share Geels’ sentiments, there are some who enjoy Valentine’s Day, even if they are single. Sophomore Erica Liddle is thankful for time spent with her friends on Valentine’s Day.

“One of my professors has a cookie decorating party every Valentine’s Day, and honestly, last year I had a really great time. It’s a good reminder for us to tell others that we love them, and it’s another chance for us to express the love and appreciation we have for our friends and family,” Liddle said.

Liddle is not the only one who expresses appreciation for V-Day. Those with significant others tend to have a positive view of the holiday. Freshman Dorrian Ogas is among those who think fondly of the time spent with loved ones.

“If I was in Texas, I would spend Valentine’s Day with my girlfriend. I don’t think that it’s an overrated holiday, as long as you don’t overexert yourself and set the day too far apart from other days,” Ogas said.

People like Ogas and Geels have decidedly chosen a side for this Valentine’s Day debate. But others are not sure what to think. Junior Eric Rowe has mixed feelings about the holiday.

“I’m a little torn about Valentine’s Day. Part of me says that it is valid, because it provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the people that matter to us. On the other hand, a holiday is typically a time for people to do something that they don’t usually do. Showing our love for others is something that should be done every day,” Rowe said.

Though the issue of Valentine’s Day has been put on trial, no firm sentence has been placed on this holiday of love, even at a school where love is possibly the most talked about subject among its students.

The Centre Mall boasts more than just pizza

Meagan DeGraaf – Staff Writer

It has 100,000 square feet of area and thirteen attractions—including two restaurants, a movie theatre, a salon and a few stores. The Centre Mall in town is more than just Pizza Ranch.

The Midwestern chain restaurant is a popular place for Dordt students because of the buffet style pizza and relatively inexpensive price, but most students don’t move too much farther than the rustic wooden railings.

The other option for food within the mall—Casey’s bakery, a pride of the Dutch Sioux Center community, also has a deli inside the mall. It is located right next to the bakery and directly adjacent to a large seating area inside the mall.

The food does not come with high price tags, but Casey’s offers more options than a regular fast-food joint. There are burgers and fries as well as salads, sandwiches and soups. And on Thursday nights in the winter, Casey’s has a

buffet called Chili Bash, where anyone can get a buffet of chili, cinnamon rolls and more for just seven dollars.

Not many Dordt students take advantage of the close proximity however. The major contributors to the success of Casey’s are of the older generation, even though Dordt students make up a large part of Sioux Center’s community.

Other than Pizza Ranch, the Centre Mall sees the most support from Dordt students at the movie theatre. The Fridley Cinema 5 features five screens that play some of the most popular movies for only \$8.00 per ticket. Still, several Dordt students ignore the theatre because of their small amount of screens and poor selection of showings.

“I’ve only gone to the mall a few times,” Becca Nelson, a sophomore, said. “I mostly just go for the movie theatre, but I’ve gone to the jewelry store too.”

The jewelry store, Pat’s Jewelry Centre, is a

small store but it offers a lot of selections for its size—one worker encourages Dordt students to consider the store for Valentine’s Day gift options.

For more athletic students, Centre Sports has a large selection for the relatively small mall. It does not have as many options as large chain stores might have, but the store still sells athletic apparel, shoes and sports equipment. Athletes do not have to give up their new apparel, because there’s a selection in the mall.

Women used to living in a larger city with lots of stores around them do not have to stop shopping either—there is a Maurice’s inside Centre Mall with much the same inventory seen country-wide in the chain’s stores.

Students often forget about the mall, even if they sit across the road from it all the time. The Centre Mall is located directly across from the Fruited Plain.

Serengetee: making a difference, one pocket tee at a time

Jaden Vander Berg – Staff Writer

For many Dordt students, it is often difficult to feel like they make a difference. Some find jobs in the community, others volunteer, but one student, senior theater arts major Taylor Leach, found another way to help those in need: a company called Serengetee.

Founded in 2012 by two college students, Serengetee is a clothing company whose mission is to ‘support artisans and causes around the world.’ They have a variety of tee shirts, tank tops, and sweatshirts – each with a small pocket. Every pocket is made from fabric handpicked from local markets in each country.

“They take fabrics from 25 different countries around the world, working with supporting local artists, local designers, and they take each of those fabrics and apply them to a different charity in the area,” Leach said.

Leach is the Dordt representative for the

company’s college rep program. She heard about the company through a friend and decided to get involved.

“It sounded cool and the more that I read about the company the more I was like, ‘This is great!’” Leach said.

There are many companies out there that could be seen as similar to Serengetee; examples include Toms, a one-for-one shoe company, or Yoobi, who sells school and office supplies and donates the same number of supplies back to schools in need in the United States.

Serengetee is different in that they do not donate clothes to these regions, but support the local artists and businesses. It is less of a handout and more of a hand up.

The have been rapidly growing since their founding in 2012 and have representatives on college and high school campuses nationwide. These reps do a variety of things, but most often their role is spreading the word.

“Whether that be word of mouth or on our social media, we are just supporting Serengetee and their products,” Leach said. “We wear the shirts and get the conversations started about the company and how they have grown.”

Leach expressed that she believes Serengetee could grow at Dordt.

“My hope is that it is something that the Dordt students consider looking into,” Leach said. “We have a relatively fashionable group and with what I have seen with our different interactions with different world improvement organizations, we always seem to have a positive response with that. I hope we would consider looking at Serengetee and supporting a clothing company that is actually doing something, rather than just making more money.”

For those interested, Leach is available. Just look for her bright pocket tee.



Senior Taylor Leach shows off a shirt from Serengetee.

PLIA prepares to disembark during spring break



The 2015 PLIA team gathers together before departing for service projects.

Meagan DeGraaf – Staff Writer

Dordt College believes that learning should be put into practice, and that is applied to Christian service in projects like Putting Love Into Action (PLIA). Every year, several teams of students travel to different locations in an effort to serve others in Jesus’ name.

About 60% of Dordt students volunteer in some way, but only approximately 120 students participate in PLIA each year. Considering how many options there are for PLIA service projects, very few students take advantage of the opportunity.

PLIA is a service project that runs over spring break. There are several locations that vary each year, so there are multiple places for students to serve.

Students who participate in PLIA are able to use their own gifts of cleaning, construction or childcare to help the community in which they

are serving. The trip also focuses on building personal faith through devotional settings and friendships through social activities.

Students are encouraged to raise \$350 to cover the costs of the trip, but dean of chapel Aaron Baart says that students often end up paying only \$100 for the experience. For a small price, students are able to experience a new part of the country in a serving atmosphere.

This year, there are over ten locations to choose from in which students can serve. In previous years, locations have included Denver, CO; Chicago, IL; Atlanta, GA; Neon, KY; and Shiprock, NM, among others.

Students who are interested in attending PLIA this year should contact Aaron Baart at Aaron.Baart@dordt.edu or stop by the Andreas Center for more information. The deadline for signing up is in only a few days, so applicants are encouraged to get involved soon!

Day of Encouragement: taking time to be blessed

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

On Feb. 6, over 200 pastors, musicians, deacons, students, elders, nursery volunteers and church members of every other variety gathered on Dordt’s campus for a Day of Encouragement.

The Day of Encouragement (DoE)—which is organized by the Office of Alumni and External relations and a few Dordt faculty members—seeks to “inspire, encourage and equip all God’s people for ministry” through a day of workshops and fellowship. Many of the attendees are local, though some come from southern and central Iowa.

“I woke up Saturday with a sense of expectancy,” said Brandon Huisman, Director of Alumni and External Relations, the key organizer of DoE. “We had put in the work to pull off a great day, but it was almost as if the Lord was inviting me to get out of the way and enjoy what he was about to do.”

This year, dean of chapel Aaron Baart delivered the keynote addresses “No Fear Here” and “Where the Bible Has Yet to Take Me.” Between the keynote speeches, attendees were able to participate in worship and in workshops ranging in topic from “Practicing the art of lament” to “a Reformed look at evangelism.”

“The worship was spot on, Aaron was on fire in his keynote and our breakout sessions poured into our attendees,” Huisman said. “Day of Encouragement is not about us—it’s about God and what he is doing in the lives of our guests.”

Director of Campus Ministries Jon De Groot has presented at DoE three times and has led worship for the past few years. One of De Groot’s favourite memories from DoE was during a time of worship last year, when his father and his father-in-law attended DoE.

“I was leading worship with my Dordt team and about halfway through our set, I looked out and saw both of them with hands in the air, singing their hearts out and worshipping Jesus,”

De Groot said. “I got choked up thinking about the legacy of faithfulness that I’d been given. And I thought about how blessed I was to be able to lead them in worship. We all left the day incredibly refreshed and encouraged in the Lord.”

“These people are trading a free Saturday to be inspired, encouraged, and equipped for ministry,” Huisman said. “They are a blessing to so many churches and communities, and this is our way to give back to them and say ‘thank you.’”



Dean of chapel Aaron Baart delivers a message in the BJ Haan during the Day of Encouragement.

Students showcase wide diversity at yearly culture fair

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

Believe it or not, you do not have to be Dutch to attend Dordt. In fact, about 70 Dordt students come from a country other than the United States. On Feb. 13, these students will have the opportunity to share food, fashion and activities from their home cultures with their peers at the Cultural Fair.

The Cultural Fair begins at 5 p.m. in the De Yager Student Activity Center. The fashion show begins at 7 p.m. and features singing and dancing, as well as traditional clothing.

“We have around 20 to 25 countries represented by booths, the fashion show and talent show combined,” said club creative chair Hannah Klos.

The Cultural Fair is organized by Dordt’s Students Without Borders club, which aims “to bridge the gap between cultures, and to learn from one another in diversity—whether that’s cultural or geographical or just in the way that we approach the world,” said club president, junior Kyle Fosse.

Through the Cultural Fair, Students Without Borders seeks to “showcase different cultures, countries, traditions and dress and to raise

awareness of all the different backgrounds represented at Dordt,” Fosse said.

“I love seeing different clothes that people have traditionally,” said sophomore Ellen Dengah, who sang a medley of Indonesian songs in last year’s fashion show. “I also love to see how people get fired up when they talk about the things that’s close to them, like their home culture. It’s heartwarming to see that people who come want to learn and know more about the world we live in and about the countless different cultures in the world.”

Dengah is looking forward to the excitement and the lively interactions between people from different cultures on Saturday.

“I’d have to say I’m most excited for all the food that’s going to be served from so many different countries,” Fosse said. “It’s awesome to go around sampling the different cuisines and drinks and learning about the countries while you eat.”

The Cultural Fair has a bit of everything, Klos says. “If you like trying different types of food, come to the cultural fair. If you’re a fan of the arts, come to the fashion show. I personally love all of these, so I’m looking forward to attending this year.”



STUDENTS WITHOUT BORDERS
**CULTURAL FAIR
AND FASHION SHOW**

CULTURAL FAIR 5-7 PM
INTERNATIONAL FASHION SHOW 7-8 PM

Saturday, February 13
Campus Center, Dordt College
Free and Open to the Public

For whoever wishes to save his right will lose it

Caeden Tinklenberg – Staff Writer

Evangelical conservatives are the greatest threat to religious liberty in the United States.

As counterintuitive as this may sound, the connection is straightforward. Christians want their religious liberties valued over other religions; we desire preferred status and legislated morality. This approach isn’t the way to securing and preserving religious liberty and Christians must back off this holy charge if we intend to keep our religion free from the chains of government in the future.

A problem arises when the precedent is set in Washington, the state capitol, or even local courtrooms that the religion of those with political power (the majority, the wealthy, the privileged, etc.) is given preferred status over other religions.

The majority of Americans are Christians. In a recent report outlining the religions of the wealthiest people in the world, over fifty percent of all millionaires claimed to be Christian. Surely that percentage is even higher

in the US, where preferred status is often given to Christian values, whether or not we care to admit it.

While it is joyous that Christians make up the majority and are actively engaged in politics and the social spheres of modern culture, I do not agree with the notion that Christians are somehow better suited than any other citizen to hold office.

It concerns me when evangelical voters only seek out politicians that tout their faith as the main, and sometimes only, plank of their platform. I do not think it is wrong for faith to be central to one’s life or work; however, when a candidate uses their faith to pander by making promises that challenge the separation of church and state and other religious freedoms, I am disconcerted.

Again, making faith a part of one’s repertoire for the campaign trail is not inherently bad, but a candidate promoting legislation that specifically singles out and labels members of a certain religion as unwelcome in this nation does not stand for the religious freedoms of

any religion, including Christianity. Likewise, pledging to roll out socially conservative laws like DOMA—whose intended purposes are not to protect God given, constitutionally-outlined rights, but instead to promote Christian principles—does not make a person a champion of religious liberty, but in fact, the exact opposite.

When laws like this pass, it may seem for a time that our faith is safe from discrimination, but a precedent has been set. A precedent that clearly values personal interest over personal liberty. A slight cultural shift is all it takes for someone with a conflicting worldview to come to power. With this precedent already established, all freedoms that Christians currently enjoy could be gone in a flash. The real culprit for the assault on our rights is not the new politician. It is the previous ones and their constituents who allowed the abuse of the religious liberties of the minority in the first place.

It’s a shame that more Christians don’t understand the concept of liberty. It’s all

about them. If the Sioux Center caucuses said anything, it was that the electorate was only concerned with who was going to fight for their Christian values the hardest. It’s selfishness, in a way. Who cares about the rights of Muslims or atheists? We want our morality legislated on everyone so that we don’t have to be disgusted, exposed to conflict, forced to live with people who we don’t agree with, be disciples. Besides, our source of morality is correct, right? Shouldn’t all people be forced by the government to abide by the rules of God, written in the Bible for all men? What a return to a “Christian nation” that would be.

So who poses the biggest threat to religious liberty? We, the evangelical majority do. Let us not weaken the underpinnings of this nation in our attempt to disseminate the message and values of the gospel to our fellow citizens. That is the work of the church and it should remain that way. And don’t forget: the same pillars that uphold the religious freedom of others are the foundation to ours as well.

The immersion of the (semi) ignorant

Ashley Bloemhof – Staff Writer

Greetings from the nation’s capital! Though currently buried under piles of snow, as the temperature continues to rise I am convinced that I will be navigating the National Mall via gondola by the time this article graces your pupils.

The terribly cliché term “new beginnings” may best describe my upcoming semester. I am juggling classes with an internship. Peers hailing from Pennsylvania and Boston surround me, and I’m rooming with an Alaskan and a Nigerian. Needless to say, a most diverse life experience awaits me. And, for what it’s worth, I have no access to a car, and the water here can taste nearly as impure as Sioux Center tap.

New beginnings indeed, and the necessary challenges as well. But don’t pity me, friends. I know that word is the farthest thing from my mind.

This city, these communities, are living and breathing with life. New opportunities beg for a taker around every corner, and I believe God led me to D.C. for a variety of reasons. Let no stone go unturned, I often tell myself. I intend to discover His will for my life throughout my short time here.

Though I have walked these brick streets for only three weeks, one fact is evident—this city is broken. As is accustomed in metropolis areas throughout the nation, power and poverty clash daily. These opposing forces vie for superiority as those in need long to be heard among the masses while many of those in power feed themselves with false contentment as they toss a couple bucks into the hands of the homeless. My professors at the American Studies have challenged me, a temporary citizen of this area, to reevaluate my mentality toward power,



View of the Capitol Building from the roof of the American Scholar’s Program building.

wealth and an ordered society. I have learned to find peace in proximate justice, in the realization that no one person or group can bring renewal to every corner of the world. Instead, God allows the stories of individuals to overlap, blessing each other and bringing shalom to the restless, in order to fulfill His mandate of discipleship.

As former editor of the Diamond, I look forward to contributing various personal insights to the semester’s publication. Morals, politics, street sense and comical reflections on “big” city life may all be found in this column. Blessings.

To the faithful Diamond reader hoping to learn more about the role of power in society, I highly recommend you invest in “Playing God” by Andy Crouch. Read with a loving, discerning heart.

Is Christianity worth anything anymore?

Danny Mooers – Staff Writer

As this was the first Presidential election that I could vote in, I had a stronger desire than usual to pay attention to the potential candidates. Both growing up in a Christian home and also attending a Christian college greatly influenced my decision to seek out a candidate with strong conservative views who is able to speak his or her mind.

I quickly found that Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina are actually influential Christian representatives for America, but where is their media attention? Why is Donald Trump at the center of everything to do with politics these days? In response, I scrolled through Trump’s twitter feed for 30 seconds and soon realized why people support him. He calls out anyone who has a single negative thing to say about him, bashes their character, and minimalizes any accomplishments they’ve ever had. Now, I’m not saying Trump isn’t Christian, but I’ll leave it up to him to prove it to us!

The Christian candidates are often well respected, but are they also capable of running a country? The older conservative voters generally choose the strongest Christian, but they never supply enough votes to land the candidate in office. According to the Pew Research Center, those who claim to be born-again Christians have voted for the republican candidate for the past three elections an average of 77% of the time. This statistic tells us one thing: there must not be a large number of born-again Christians who vote, because that percentage should have a larger influence on results.

As our country has slowly progressed away from God’s word, its influence has also diminished. The majority of Americans have

clearly pushed for action that is not God-honoring—whether that be the support of same-sex marriage, etc.

The main question I hear from Christians regarding the state of America is: “Why are all these ungodly things happening?” The answer is fairly simple. Those who are passionate about their rights will accomplish more. Those with a liberal agenda seem to have a fairly easy time gaining the support of the media, and their beliefs are constantly being publicized. Therefore, any time a Christian or conservative article is published in protest of “equality,” it is torn apart by liberals. Where are the Christians standing up for these articles? Why can’t we seem to accomplish anything on our agenda?

A high school teacher of mine once gave me sound advice on how to accomplish things in politics: “show up.” This was around the time when Minnesota was going to vote on the legalization of the same-sex marriage law. According to a 2012 ABC news poll, 65% percent of Republicans, 60% of Independent party members, and 29% of Democrats were against same-sex marriage laws. When looking at these figures, it seems as if there should have been enough voters to stop the legalization of it. However, those in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage “showed up” in much larger numbers than those opposing it.

In order for Christianity to become truly relevant in American politics, Christians have to be more active. Christians have to make the effort to “show up.” We have to become bold in this crucial time of our country. Isaiah 60:12, “For the nation or kingdom that will not serve [God] will perish: it will be utterly ruined.”

Carrying through with an athletic career in college reaps great benefits

Alli Young – Staff Writer

As a junior in high school, I told my parents there was no way I would ever want to or be qualified to run track or cross country in college. Little did I know that collegiate athletics would become one of the most rewarding and satisfying experiences of my college years.

I’m always disappointed when a fellow Dordt athlete decides not to continue playing their sport of choice. Seldom do I hear of anyone quitting the team because they’re “not good enough” or they’re tired of sitting the bench. The most frequent reason I hear is that they would prefer to use their time to prioritize other activities, such as working, studying or socializing.

I fully understand and respect every individual’s

freedom to pursue his or her own passions and live a lifestyle that works best for him or her. However, I’d like to make the case that carrying through with an athletic career at Dordt College will enhance your life physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

After almost three years of training and competing, I have experienced the ups and downs that almost every athlete experiences. It has been well worth every aching muscle, early morning practice and solitary summer workout.

Collegiate athletics differ from high school athletics in that every single athlete on the team wants to be there for some reason. Every individual has some form of inner motivation, no matter what his status or role on the team. The same principle goes for the coaches—they aren’t

just the math teachers that got roped into coaching track. They’re there for a reason.

Ironically, college athletes tend to receive less media coverage than high school athletes, especially those from a small town. Even though college athletes usually improve their performances in college, the higher level of competition prevents them from shining as brightly as they may have in high school.

I bring this up is because I believe it points to the underlying premise of collegiate athletics—personal growth. For myself and many other college athletes that aren’t the “stud” on the team, my definition of success has morphed into one that reflects the physical and mental barriers I have overcome. As cliché as it may sound, it’s about the experience and what you put into it.

From being named athlete of the week on the team, to running a new personal best, to simply making it through an entire season without getting injured, one can easily set goals and celebrate the small victories they achieve. If one experiences a great deal of success, such as becoming an All-American or competing at Nationals, that’s awesome!

What I love about Dordt College athletics is the equal opportunity that every athlete receives to make the most of their talents and abilities. I can personally attribute much of my personal achievements to the positive, encouraging environment I have been surrounded by. When a close-knit team is led by coaches who uplift, challenge and nurture their athletes, I think the potential for personal growth is endless.

Men’s volleyball strives for daily growth



Men’s volleyball huddles up to strategize for the next game.

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

Starting a varsity program makes long-term goals and expectations difficult to predict. Instead of looking too far forward, Dordt College men’s volleyball strives for daily growth in the midst of unpredictability.

Being a first-year varsity program, Dordt will face numerous obstacles on and off the court. One of those major obstacles any team faces: the opponent.

“With volleyball being a varsity sport this year, we’ll be facing some pretty good teams, playing against guys that have played competitively for a long time,” said senior outside hitter Kyle Vander Zee.

The competition is tough. During a four-match tournament in Parkville, Missouri, Dordt competed against four teams ranked in the top-10 of the NAIA men’s volleyball polls. The Defenders took one set during the four matches while losing four sets by double digits.

“I think in our first season, if we become too heavy on that side [wins and losses] of the attention, that can be overwhelming and frustrating,” said Chad Hanson, the Dordt College men’s volleyball head coach. “Looking back to this last weekend [Jan. 29-30], the daily growth focus has paid off, and we’ve seen success in the way our guys understand the game and communicate.”

Understanding the game is another sizeable change between last season’s club status and this year’s varsity status. Schematically, the change is significant.

“Our biggest hump to get over right now is trusting the system that our coaches have us in,” Vander Zee said. “Last year in club we played a 5-1, and this year we’re in a 6-2, so we have a few guys playing different roles on the team.”

To put it simply, the 5-1 system offensively has one setter and five hitters on the court. This way, the setter sets in every rotation, whether in

the back or front row. A 6-2 system offensively has two setters on the court and allows a team to have three offensive players up front at all times.

The current schematic system, 6-2, isn’t necessarily set in stone for Dordt.

“We’re still working through our lineup and the expectations of our system—the offensive and defensive schemes we run,” Hanson said.

Not only is the system schematically different for Dordt, but the opposition is also running some new schemes players aren’t accustomed to.

“With men’s volleyball, what I’ve seen is the more elite teams have four hitters,” Hanson said. “That’s a new volleyball dynamic for Dordt College and specifically for our men’s programs. That’s another layer in taking three blockers and trying to defend against four attackers.”

It’s obstacles and struggles like these that bring Dordt to its overarching goal for the program: daily growth. With 10 upperclassmen on a roster of 16 players, the leadership is in place to set the correct tone.

“As seniors, we collectively discussed the fact that we have an incredible opportunity to set the tone for this program,” said setter Austin Lindemulder. “We want to be leaders to this team, pushing others to grow athletically and be prepared for the upcoming years.”

Again, daily growth and progress throughout the program’s first year will dictate how successful this inaugural season will be.

“We need to keep in mind that this is an experimental year for Dordt men’s volleyball,” said senior middle blocker/opposite hitter Mark Tiemersma. “The key will not be how good our record is but how much we progress throughout the season.”

For an inaugural season in varsity athletics, there isn’t much more you can ask for.

Defense dominates in Super Bowl 50

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

The super bore. It was the definition of a defensive game between both teams, but that’s not what the entire nation wants to see. Many people want to see high-scoring affairs with touchdowns that fill the highlight reel. Super Bowl 50 was anything but. Both teams gave their all, but the Denver Broncos defeated the Carolina Panthers, 24-10.

The Super Bowl, though, is not just about the game; it’s a celebration of everything football, almost as if the big game is a party to end winter or say the football season is ending.

Overall, there are many themes to the Super Bowl, one of course being the commercials. The commercials give the average fan and non-football consumers a chance to be entertained while the game.

“I normally don’t watch football, but the commercials are always funny so it gives me a chance to watch the game and get a good laugh in,” said Marina Meyers.

Not only is the Super Bowl about the commercials, but also about the party as well.

The game gives reason to fill the void everyone experiences between the holidays and spring; a reason to get together with friends and eat as much food as possible.

“Some friends and I went to Dr. Forseth’s house, had a great home cooked meal and watched the game with a group of pretty awesome friends,” said Brianna Evans.

Lastly, there are those who watch the Super Bowl for the game. This includes the football players who often watch the game together. Many of Dordt’s football players watch the game as a team at a coach’s house.

Nearly everyone on campus watches the Super Bowl, including Schyler Kane, who watched the game with some friends.

“I was really cheering on Peyton [Manning] to win since it was his last Super Bowl and all, but I do like Cam Newton and his dabbing.”

The game may not have been as dramatic as people wanted it to be, but it did give us a reason to get together with friends and enjoy their fellowship. Plus, now campus gets to hear all about the Broncos victory for the next month.

Dordt Blades finish season at Missouri State

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

In a season filled with overtime wins and losses and ups and downs, a light emerged. The Dordt Blades did not go .500 or win every game this year, but they finished with their best record in five seasons: 10-14-1-1. The team finished with a 4-4 record after the semester break.

Owning a four-game winning streak going into the final weekend of the season (Feb. 5-6), Dordt ran into a difficult opponent. #13th-ranked Missouri State halted Dordt’s win streak with an 8-0 victory the first night of the weekend series.

Friday night’s game did not go the Blades way for the majority of the night. Every bounce seemed to favor Missouri State as they were scored on twice on the power play. The following night was a different story with the Blades only losing 6-5. The game came down to the final seconds.

The Dordt Blades may have not gone on to the playoffs, but this season was a stepping stone.

“This year was great,” said Dordt Blades coach John Langerap. “Great group of guys and a pathway to next year. We bring in nine new recruits and hope to push for the playoffs.”

The Blades lose five members for the 2016-17 season: Seth Mundorf, Kevin Grootenboer, Mitch Ten Napel, Chris Soodsma and Ayden Van Driel, all seniors who contributed to the

season this year.

“This year was a success for the Dordt Blades,” Mundorf said. “It was the first time the team got to 10 wins since the ‘09-10 season. This team is full of some great young men who are dedicated. Mix in some of the many recruits who have committed to the team next year and this organization is going to keep getting better.”

Bringing a team together that had only six wins the year before, this year’s team seemed to be continuously improving. Facing eight out of the top-15 ranked teams in their region, Dordt defeated one and played the others tightly, showing everyone Dordt is a squad that will always battle.

“The season was lots of fun, and I’m happy with what we accomplished,” said starting goalkeeper Ross Van Gaalen. “I’d say we played our best hockey in the month leading up to Christmas Break and never fully recovered our pre-Christmas form this semester. Despite that, we improved a lot this year in more ways than one, and we have a lot to be proud of. It will be exciting to see if we can push ourselves further next year.”

The Blades will return seven juniors. With such a strong senior class next season, the question is what will be limit for the Blades. Dordt will begin the offseason looking to continue where they left off this season.

Three more qualify for track & field Nationals

Alli Young – Staff Writer

Saturday, Jan. 30; Storm Lake, Iowa: Dordt performances at the Dennis Young Classic met the automatic qualifying standards to compete in three more events at the NAIA Track & Field National Championship Meet in Johnson City, TN on March 3-5.

The women’s 4x800 meter relay team of Kelsey Lewis, Justine Van Zee, Nicole Slater and Kayla Byl posted the current fastest time in NAIA of 9:24.00, beating the national qualifying time by 21 seconds.

Later that afternoon, Byl and Slater, along with teammates Sarah Van Wyk and Erika Douma, swept first, second, third and fifth place in the mile, respectively.

Junior Matt Bolt demonstrated his versatility when qualifying for nationals in the heptathlon, a two-day competition of seven different events. Bolt’s total score of 4,226 points broke

the school record previously held by Brett Huff.

The third and final national qualification came via Xavier Caffee’s win in the 200 meter dash. Caffee’s time of 22.11 made him the 7th fastest in NAIA.

Another highlight of the meet included the women’s winning performance in the 4x200 meter relay. Miranda Velgersdyk, Elizabeth Rankin, Laurel Zomer and Marisa Broersma ran 1.48.49, a mere two one-hundredths of a second shy of breaking the school record.

In a sprint relay, passing the baton from one leg of the relay can either save or lose precious amounts of time; two of the women’s exchanges did not transition smoothly.

“We probably lost at least a second there. That’s why we’re so frustrated that we didn’t get the school record, because we could have easily gotten it (with improved handoffs),” Velgersdyk said.

Despite the less-than-flawless handoffs,

Broersma’s split of 25.6 seconds beat her personal best in the open 200. The ladies wanted to make the most of the opportunity to run the 4x200 because it is not a common event in most indoor track meets. This was their debut 4x200 of the season.

“I think why we did so well is because we were just focusing on having fun because it was a different race and we all like 200s,” Velgersdyk said.

The men’s 4x400 meter relay team finished a close second to Northwestern with a time of 3:26.09. Ross Rozeboom, Lucas Van Eps, Sam Wensink and Josiah Eckels ran in that order.

In field events, junior Jacob Moats won the high jump with a 1.95-meter leap. Sophomore Raquelle Mouw placed second in the triple jump with a leap of 10.45 meters. Junior Natalie Van Essen placed third in the long jump with a 5.12-meter leap.

In team scoring, the Dordt men came in 4th



Kayla Byl, Nicole Slater and Sarah Van Wyk came in first, second and third in the mile, respectively.

with 98 points. Northwestern College won the meet with 144 points. The Dordt women scored 143 points—Morningside College edged out the Defenders only by one point for the team title.

Dordt Track & Field returned to Storm Lake on Saturday, Feb. 6, for the Buena Vista Invite. On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 12-13, the team will compete at a 300-meter indoor track at South Dakota State University.

Dordt juniors showcase their artistic endeavors

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

Have you seen the most recent addition to the art gallery? The work of eight Dordt juniors will be displayed in the Campus Center until Feb. 21. Each of these students are art majors in some form, each with different emphases. On Feb. 6, these students had a chance to talk about their works in a time of discussion and fellowship during the Junior Art showing.

Emily Visser, a graphic design major, was the first to talk the audience through her pieces. Visser was presented with the opportunity to create an infographic based on what Dordt students do after graduation. She was given the necessary information and then told to create something with it.

“It was very good experience to work with a client,” Visser said. “I realize that this was a much different scenario than what I expect to be presented with in a real job situation, as my bosses were very graceful and understanding, but it was still a good experience.”

Jennifer Allen, a fine arts studio major, chose to display a number of her paintings and multi-media works. Many of Allen’s pieces are the result of experimentation in the studio. For example, one piece showcased a series of six paintings of Allen’s eyebrows. To create the work, she applied paint to her brows and stamped them onto the paper six times, each one yielding a different look.

Another piece by Allen was created using playing cards and candle wax—among other things.

“When I originally had this piece displayed, I had it set up in a way that was almost shrine-like,” Allen said. “I think of it as a representation of how we can pick one piece of ourselves and almost worship it; we can make it into what defines us, when there really are many pieces of ourselves that define us and make us who we are.”

Hope Kramer, a fine arts and graphics major, also displayed art created by using many

different mediums. Like Allen, Kramer is interested in experimentation in the studio, which was evident particularly in one piece: an oversized, stuffed piece of cake that Kramer had sewn.

Kramer, who is also on the volleyball team, said that, for her, there is often overlap between art and sport.

“Volleyball involves a lot of geometry and calculation, and that applies to my art making as well,” Kramer said. “Sports require a lot of energy, and I feel that I put a lot of that same energy into my art work.”

Vanessa Blankespoor, a graphic design major, offered her graphic design work for the showing, including a redesigned logo for Ikea. She stated that the goal for that assignment was to redesign the logo for the largest consumer pool of the company. A member of the audience brought up the fact that Blankespoor edits the layout for the Diamond, which then led her to talk about the challenges of designing something that has to look somewhat uniform each time.

Brittany Ryks, a K-12 art education major, displayed a piece that was a series of three different drawings. Ryks mentioned that since her piece centers on the theme of anxiety and depression, it has acted as a conversation starter and has even become a piece that many connect to on an emotional level. This led Ryks to talk about how she imagines her art classroom will be someday.

“I have a deep love for kids and for creating things together,” said Ryks. “I hope that my classroom will be a safe place for my students to try things, but I also hope that it will be a place where students are challenged to think deeper and have meaningful conversations.”

The works of two other students, Rachel Du Mez and Jordyn Visscher, are also displayed in the gallery, but the two were not able to attend the discussion.

The Campus Center art gallery is open every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and this particular show will be displayed until Feb. 21.



Photos by David Versluis

Junior Brittany Ryks explains one of her pieces at the junior art show exhibit.

The Academy Awards: they matter, but why?

Kyle Fosse – Staff Writer

The Academy Awards season is once again upon us, and with it come the inevitable racial and gender-based debates which follow just about any event taking place in America nowadays. But I would rather talk about the nature of the event itself.

It would be presumptuous to say that the famed golden Oscar statuette adds any value to the film to which it is awarded. The movie won’t change whether it wins any awards or not. And yet, driven on by that knowledge, we love to see “good” art credited as “good” art.

By design, art is intended to be first admired and then acknowledged. In Dordt, we see this in the cases of art displays, student showcases and massive murals a ’la Van Wyk. The Prairie Grass Film Challenge would hardly have a purpose were it not for the follow-up festival and awards show. Theatre performances put months of work into a few short nights in front of an audience.

Every year, thousands of people flock to screens, stages and living rooms to participate in events with the sole purpose of honoring good work. Tonys, Grammys, Emmys and Oscars are the biggest, but the world of award-winning is saturated with indie festivals, backyard recognition ceremonies and high school awards programs.

I think this comes from an ingrained human need deep within our psyche. Humanity as a

race is driven by feedback. Every belief, word and action comprises a part of what comes together to form our individual public images. These images are almost always seen in a negative light – they are the masks we put on in order to hide our true selves from the world.

Art – real art – is a form of revolt against that public perception. It’s used as a way to reveal what we hope to be the true pieces of ourselves. So naturally, we receive positive feedback personally: when someone appreciates the art we make, it feels like they are appreciating us personally. Whether that be in actual, creative output, or in normal, everyday work, we reflect our inner nature through the content we create.

Whether or not you decide to watch the Oscars, attend the film festival next weekend or pay homage to the plethora of art being produced by Dordt students every day, it’s important to consider the ways in which we output our personalities in the work that we do.



Krygsheld and Janssen deliver junior vocal recital

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

Artistry, romance, tragedy and humor characterized Jon Janssen and Anna Krygsheld’s voice recital last Friday night. While the BJ Haan was not bursting, the recital was well-attended by a crowd of faculty, family and friends.

Janssen is an English Literature major from Hospers, Iowa, and Krygsheld is a theater major from Lansing, Illinois. Despite their differences in background and interests, the two meshed well together to perform a skilled and entertaining concert.

Janssen shared that his personal favorite piece was “Bring Him Home” from the musical Les Miserables.

“When you’ve got something good to work with,” he said. “It’s easy to bring all you can out of it.”

Krygsheld’s favorite song was “Good Morning, Mr. Bluebird,” a humorous piece about a singer competing with the bluebird that wakes her up every morning. Accompanied by flautist Sion Yang and pianist Lauren Vermeer, Krygsheld combined acting, singing, gun threats, frustrated instructions and feathery revenge. Judging by the applause and laughter, the crowd enjoyed the song as much as she did.

Another crowd favorite was Janssen’s “Agnes.” People roared with laughter when it became apparent that Janssen’s love interest in the song was actually his beloved mule. “It

catches the audience off-guard every time,” Janssen shared, smiling.

Humor was not limited to the performance itself.

“When you haven’t prepared for a practice enough and you know it, it’s a combination of humor and dread,” Janssen said.

“We were working on ‘Anything You Can Do’ and we just had to add the acting elements,” Krygsheld said. “Jon couldn’t remember which phrases came first, so we created these little gimmicks.”

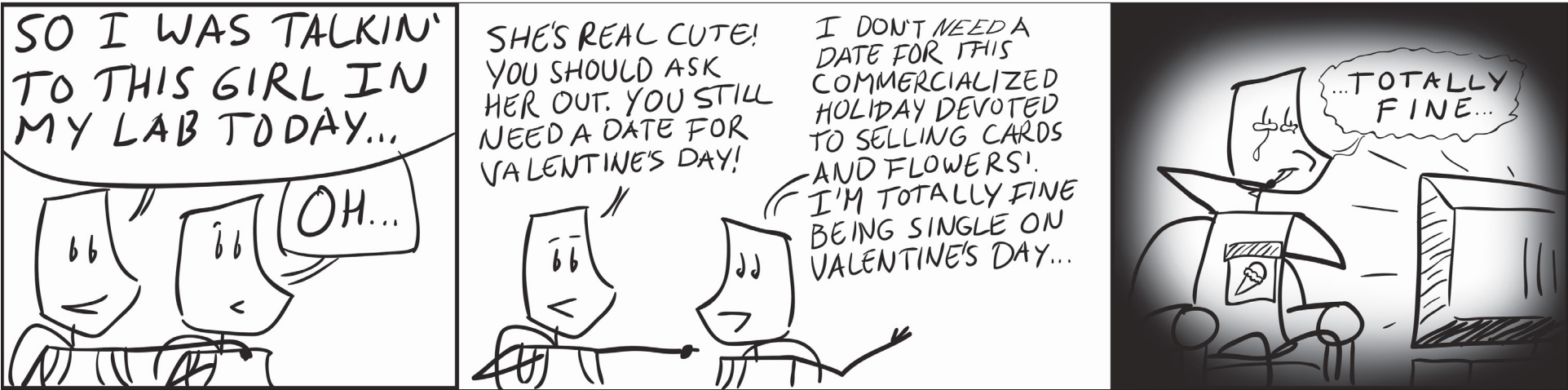
In order to remember that the line, ‘Anything you can buy, I can buy cheaper,’ comes before ‘Anything you can sing, I can sing softer,’ Krygsheld and Janssen figured that “if you have any ‘cents,’ you’ll speak softly.”

Even though the process was a lot of hard work and practice, Krygsheld shared, “Jon and I work really well together and we had a really good time.”

The crowd enjoyed the performance as much as Janssen and Krygsheld. Some students were even inspired. Freshman Bethany Van Eps said, “It actually makes me want to go and practice my voice lessons at nine at night!”

Overall, Janssen found it to be a good learning experience. “I’m kind of a perfectionist, so I’m not used to failure. This was something I kept failing at and got pushed to do better. When you struggle with something and it comes out better, the results feel more real.”

◆ The Back Page ◆



Cartoon by Jonathan Fictorie

Humans of Dordt College



Yeseul Park

“ Q: What are the biggest culture differences between here, in the United States, and South Korea?

A: Manner of eating. When American people eat, their mothers tell them not to slurp. But in South Korea, that's a compliment.

Q: Do you still do that when you're here?

A: Yes. When I first went to the commons, I slurped and all of the Americans looked at me. ”



Typography by Christina Chahyadinata

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